



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 12, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Sponsor SB 360 (Padilla)** - related to the development and acquisition of new voting systems, was amended to require a specified State certification and testing process for voting systems; and to allow local jurisdictions to pilot publicly-owned voting systems. The County is working with the author's office to further amend this bill to allow Voting Modernization Funds to be used for the research and development of voting systems. Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals to allow the County to develop and/or acquire a voting system on a pilot basis, **the Sacramento advocates will sponsor SB 360.**
- **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**
  - **County-supported SBX1 3 (Hernandez)** - related to the Medical Bridge Plan for qualified low-income persons with incomes up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level passed the Senate Floor on April 11, 2013.

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- **Legislation of County Interest**

- **AB 1151 (Ting)** - related to the registration of property tax agents.
- **SB 573 (Lieu)** - related to the authorization of emergency vehicles for use in responding to emergency calls.

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**Pursuit of Position on County-Sponsored Legislation**

**County-sponsored SB 360 (Padilla)**, which as amended on April 10, 2013, would make amendments to the Elections Code related to the development and acquisition of new voting systems, specifically requiring the Secretary of State to certify or conditionally approve all State voting systems, set voting system standards and testing processes, and allow local jurisdictions to pilot new, publicly-owned voting systems. As introduced on February 20, 2013, SB 360 would have allowed a local jurisdiction to develop a new voting system prior to Federal certification provided that the system was certified before its use in an election. The Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk, this office and the Sacramento advocates worked with Senator Padilla's office to amend the bill to include provisions recommended by the County.

Under existing law, there are no provisions for State-issued voting system guidelines; test specifications for approval of new voting systems; or provisions to allow local jurisdictions to develop and pilot their own voting system. As amended, SB 360 would allow for these provisions, specifically to: 1) require the Secretary of State to be responsible for the certification or conditional approval of all voting systems used in the State and for setting voting system standards and testing processes; and 2) authorize local jurisdictions to pilot new, publicly-owned voting systems, under the specifications and approval of the Secretary of State.

The Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk (RR/CC) notes that their research on how to best replace the County's aging voting system indicates that voters would most benefit from a system custom designed and publicly-owned by the County. The Department indicates that SB 360 would provide the County a more expedient, secure and cost effective way to fund, develop, and pilot a new and modern system. RR/CC further notes that the bill would help strengthen and streamline the State's voting system certification process overall.

As amended, **County-sponsored SB 360** is consistent with existing policy to support legislation to allow Los Angeles County to develop and/or acquire a voting system on a pilot basis; and to support legislation to require the Secretary of State to issue voting system guidelines and test specifications for approval of new voting systems.

This office, the Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk and the Sacramento advocates are working with the author's office to further amend SB 360 to include provisions to allow Voting Modernization Funds to be used for the research and development of voting systems. These proposed amendments would be consistent with the Board action of February 12, 2013 which instructed the County's Sacramento Advocates to continue pursuing County-sponsored legislation to develop, acquire and implement a new voting system on a pilot basis, and to streamline the certification of voting systems in California by asking the Secretary of State to adopt testing standards and to certify, or conditionally, approve all voting systems; and further, to seek or support legislation that would give the County authorization to access Proposition 41 (the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002) funds for research and development of its voting system.

This office and the Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk support SB 360. Therefore, as noted above and unless otherwise instructed by the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will sponsor SB 360.**

Currently, there is no registered support or opposition on file for SB 360. This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on April 30, 2013.

#### **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**

**County-supported SBX1 3 (Hernandez)**, which as amended on March 6, 2013, would establish a Bridge Plan which would require the California Health Benefits Exchange to offer health care plans for low-income persons previously enrolled in the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families Programs and for other qualified persons with incomes up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 37 to 0 on April 11, 2013. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly.

#### **Legislation of County Interest**

**AB 1151 (Ting)**, which as introduced on February 22, 2013, would have, beginning July 1, 2014, required a property tax agent to register annually with the Secretary of State before representing a tax payer before any county official, was amended on April 9, 2013.

As amended, provisions of AB 1151 would be effective July 1, 2015 and would change the registration renewal requirement from an annual to a biennial process and require tax agents to provide proof of continuing education classes in property tax and ethics topics, or proof of active membership in the State Bar of California or the Institute for Professionals in Taxation with a designation in Property Tax. Also, AB 1151 would prohibit a county supervisor or member of a county assessment appeals board from acting as a tax agent in

Each Supervisor  
April 12, 2013  
Page 4

the county in which they serve. Additionally, a county would not be prohibited from enacting a local ordinance requiring tax agent reporting requirements for campaign contributions to elected officials in that county.

AB 1151 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 17, 2013.

**SB 573 (Lieu)**, which as amended on April 4, 2013, would expand the types of vehicles authorized by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol as emergency vehicles for use in responding to emergency calls for fire or law enforcement or for the immediate preservation of life or property or the apprehension of law violators to include any vehicle owned and operated by hospitals designated by Los Angeles County as a disaster resource center hospital. The authorization would apply exclusively to vehicles used to transport mass-casualty decontamination apparatus medical supplies, lifesaving equipment or personnel to the scene of an emergency at the request of a fire department or law enforcement, a hospital incident management team, the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, or any public agency responsible for providing local emergency services.

SB 573 is sponsored by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center who indicates that current law prohibits hospitals from moving emergency equipment, trailers, personnel, medications and related items to a healthcare facility or the scene of an emergency without a police escort, except under specific exemptions. The sponsors of the bill note that current law permits a private ambulance service to operate an emergency support vehicle to move these types of equipment, supplies and personnel; however, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center does not operate, nor does it intend to operate, an ambulance service, therefore, this exemption is not available to the hospital. The sponsors also report that the County EMS provides magnets and stickers to the County's 13 Disaster Resources Center (DRC) hospitals which are placed on the sides of DRC vehicles in times of emergency deployment. According to Cedars-Sinai, while the stickers are helpful, they are inadequate to move emergency vehicles through access control lines or to navigate through traffic congestion during an emergency event.

This office is working with the Department of Health Services, Sheriff's Office, and Fire Department to analyze SB 573 to determine the potential County impact. This measure is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:VE:PC:ma

c: All Department Heads